

Author	Topic: Did any of you read the Chris and Nancy book by Irv Muchnik?	
<b>gary cubeta</b> Member Member # 24367	 posted 10-29-2009 09:30 AM10-29-2009 08:30 AM	    “ ”
<p>I think it is the worst wrestling book written yet ... torture to read ...</p> <p>just wondering if anyone else got a copy</p> <p>IP: <a href="#">Logged</a></p>		
<b>'zillajoe</b> Member Member # 1685	 posted 10-29-2009 09:36 AM10-29-2009 08:36 AM	    “ ”
<p>I will now!</p> <p>IP: <a href="#">Logged</a></p>		
<b>gary cubeta</b> Member Member # 24367	 posted 10-29-2009 09:41 AM10-29-2009 08:41 AM	    “ ”
<p>It's worth reading to wonder why it was written</p> <p>It's a head scratcher for sure</p> <p>Order a copy over at Amazon.com</p> <p>IP: <a href="#">Logged</a></p>		
<b>Dank</b> Member Member # 2517	 posted 10-29-2009 09:49 AM10-29-2009 08:49 AM	   “ ”
<p>Much like Ring of Hell it paints the biz in a less than flattering light, thus internet folk will be up in arms circling the wagons.</p> <p>IP: <a href="#">Logged</a></p>		
<b>Wolverine</b> Member Member # 894	 posted 10-29-2009 09:58 AM10-29-2009 08:58 AM	   “ ”
<p>You call it the worst wrestling book ever written, and then tell us to go order a copy?</p> <p>IP: <a href="#">Logged</a></p>		
<b>Infamous</b> Member Member # 10021	 posted 10-29-2009 10:01 AM10-29-2009 09:01 AM	   “ ”
<p>I could write a better book on a napkin during dinner. It's not even worth starting a thread over but to each his own.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>"I'm The Greatest" - Muhammad Ali</p> <p>IP: <a href="#">Logged</a></p>		
<b>hot stuff's stooge is back</b>	 posted 10-29-2009 10:05 AM10-29-2009 09:05 AM	    “ ”

Member  
Member # 166





Bizarre logic there ain't it, Wolverine?

He has been around wrestling too long it appears.

j.d. out-

IP: [Logged](#)

**EVAD**  
Member  
Member # 1917

 posted 10-29-2009 10:07 AM 10-29-2009 09:07 AM     “ ”

[Muchnick's Benoit book a flawed but valuable resource](#)

-----  
Retro is the new cool.

IP: [Logged](#)






**Dank**  
Member  
Member # 2517

 posted 10-29-2009 10:10 AM 10-29-2009 09:10 AM     “ ”

The reaction on this at WC is about the least shocking thing ever.

IP: [Logged](#)

**gary cubeta**  
Member  
Member # 24367


 posted 10-29-2009 10:15 AM 10-29-2009 09:15 AM     “ ”

The book is not worth a \*\*\*\*

but buy it and see for yourselves

IP: [Logged](#)






**Dank**  
Member  
Member # 2517

 posted 10-29-2009 10:17 AM 10-29-2009 09:17 AM     “ ”

Maybe you could actually explain why you hate the book so much instead of regurgitating the same post 10 times in this thread.

IP: [Logged](#)

**Tab**  
Member  
Member # 1083

 posted 10-29-2009 12:46 PM 10-29-2009 11:46 AM     “ ”

quote:

Originally posted by gary cubeta:

**The book is not worth a \*\*\*\***

**but buy it and see for yourselves**

This is brilliant advice. If it's so awful, why are you telling people to buy it?

And how about saying *specifically* what is so awful about it?

I'm good friends with the guy who wrote the review linked above. If he says it's worth a read, then it's worth a read.

Taber

IP: [Logged](#)

**Travlr**

Member  
Member # 4304



posted 10-29-2009 02:12 PM10-29-2009 01:12 PM



In other words, there's good stuff there, but you gotta look for it and verify secondary sources.

I think we've said the same thing about Diana Hart's book (when it was available), *Ring of Hell*, *Sex Lies & Headlocks* and *Chokehold*, amongst a few others.

....at least it wasn't written by Scott Keith....

-----  
The Traveller  
a fan since '68....

*Leeeeeet's juuuuuust slide this over to the Ak-Bar before Mr. Nulty has a myocardial infarction and a litter of wombats, huh?* -- Crimson Mask 1

The reason so many of us fans here complain about wrestling today is because Mr. Thesz spoiled us -- barry jordan

IP: [Logged](#)

**Ken Viewer**

Member  
Member # 5528



posted 10-29-2009 02:23 PM10-29-2009 01:23 PM



I've not read Irv Muchnick's new book.

And having followed the murders/suicide mostly from posts here and via various newspaper reports (didn't read wall-to-wall coverage then or since), I don't expect to offer an opinion on the book's revelations. The event is too contemporary, in the world of wrestling, for me to have the expertise needed without much more work. My loss.

I post only because Irv Muchnick is the author of this new examination/new book. Those who dismiss him as anyone less than a leading reporter/writer who keeps following the the wrestling/drugs and corruption issues, in my opinion, haven't a clue as to Muchnick's skills and proven abilities as a reporter. Does he miss details at times? Hard to find any author who doesn't.

What all of his coverage of the Benoit, Nancy Sullivan and her current/former family, and the WWE, establishes is for others to opine upon. That Muchnick was/is on the trail and uncovered putrid aspects of the crime(s) and who-knows-what-else here, is something I applaud.

As a reporter, you either can cut it or you can't. He can cut it. Whether a book-writer goes too far in speculation and/or conclusions, is another issue beyond my minimal knowledge of the unrevealed details of this case -- some details of which have always left me wondering what was missing from that which I read.

Whether I purchase the book will depend more upon my desire to support Muchnick's continued book-writing efforts -- and I do support those efforts -- than my further interest in a miasma of conflicting details and concealed/revealed specifics.

What Muchnick and his lawyers uncovered in the Authors Guild (and other members of the "Class Action") copyright litigation -- them bastards don't represent me or my interests) and proposed-settlement/sellout stands as a tribute to his investigative skills and instincts. On that topic, I can offer an informed opinion, though that opinion is only my own.

The Objectors to that settlement, along with their lawyers, led by Objector Muchnick, proved their case before the Federal Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (includes New York City). That is not an easy burden to meet. I applaud what I applaud, and I support those who challenge the establishment, and back-room hustles and frauds.

Ken

[ 10-29-2009, 01:31 PM: Message edited by: Ken Viewer ]

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**jorjorbynks**  
Member  
Member # 12312






 posted 10-29-2009 02:25 PM 10-29-2009 01:25 PM    

The review on Slam Wrestling (linked above) is a good review. So good in fact that I know I won't be buying the book. My personal opinion is that this book and others like it (Ring of Hell) are exploiting a horrible tragedy in an attempt to further the author's own agenda(s) and profit. I do not want to be a part of that.

-----  
Pro Wrestling is neither real nor fake. It's magic!

IP: [Logged](#)

**gary cubeta**  
Member  
Member # 24367

 posted 10-29-2009 02:35 PM 10-29-2009 01:35 PM    

If Muchnik is the best the industry has to offer when it comes to investigative journalism, then we are in serious trouble ...

The book is awful in my opinion ... poorly written and without point.

But go buy it and then see if you feel differently ...

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**Dank**  
Member

 posted 10-29-2009 02:49 PM 10-29-2009 01:49 PM    

Member # 2517

Gary, you didn't really read it did you.






Name a few things that you specifically thought were terrible in the book.

Hell, name a few things that are IN the book.

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**gary cubeta**

Member  
Member # 24367

 posted 10-29-2009 02:58 PM 10-29-2009 01:58 PM     “ ”

Does anyone want to come on the show and debate it with me?





I have two copies here

I really think it is terrible ... but that's just my opinion ...

IP: [Logged](#)

**King Kamala**

Member  
Member # 3738

 posted 10-29-2009 03:03 PM 10-29-2009 02:03 PM    “ ”

quote:

---

Originally posted by Dank:

**Gary, you didn't really read it did you.**

**Name a few things that you specifically thought were terrible in the book.**

**Hell, name a few things that are IN the book.**





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Wait, hold on a second here, Dank. You're telling me that Gary Cubeta, 57Talk.com in Scottsdale, Arizona, didn't read the book? 🤔😏

IP: [Logged](#)

**SMN from CA**

Member  
Member # 3253

 posted 10-29-2009 03:06 PM 10-29-2009 02:06 PM    “ ”

quote:

---

Originally posted by jorjorbynks:

**The review on Slam Wrestling (linked above) is a good review. So good in fact that I know I won't be buying the book. My personal opinion is that this book and others like it (Ring of Hell) are exploiting a horrible tragedy in an attempt to further the author's own agenda(s) and profit.**

**I do not want to be a part of that.**

---

I assume you also skipped out on "Schindler's List", "Saving Private Ryan", "Platoon", etc. for the same reason?

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**Dirk Wiggler**

Member  
Member # 1677



posted 10-29-2009 03:07 PM10-29-2009 02:07 PM



quote:

Originally posted by gary cubeta:

**Does anyone want to come on the show and debate it with me?**

I'll debate it. But I haven't read it yet.

-----  
*In the days of young-- there ain't nobody could throw a punch like Bob Geigel!*

-----  
*Sit down sonny, you don't know what you're talkin about!!!*  
--Bruno Sammartino

-----  
*Honey when I tell you 'I love you' ya can put it in the bank.*  
--Ric Flair

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**EVAD**

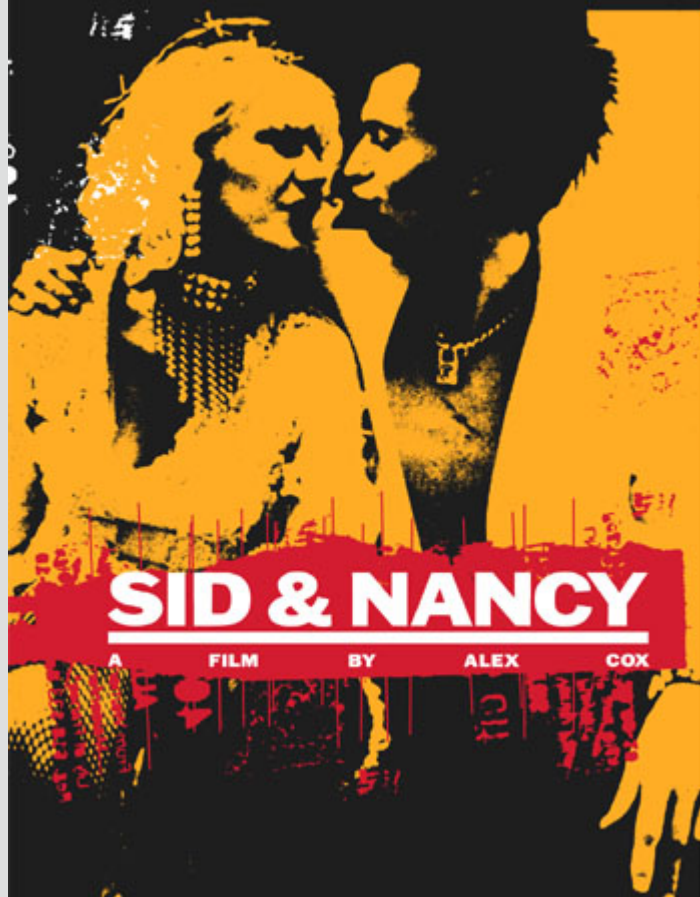
Member  
Member  
# 1917

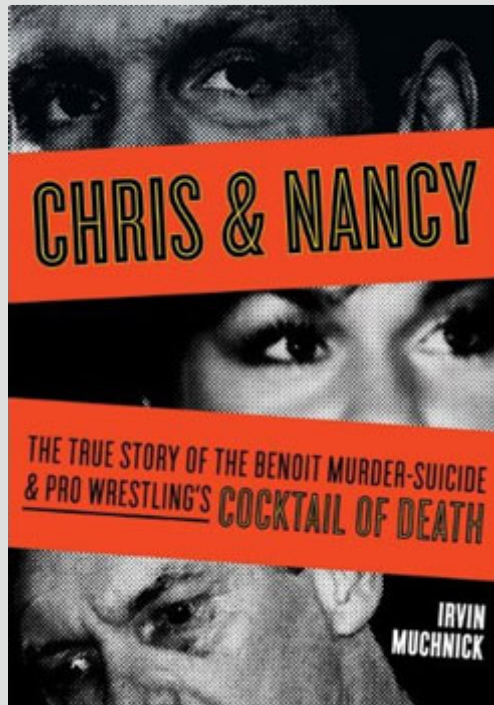


posted 10-29-2009 03:12 PM10-29-2009 02:12 PM



THE CRITERION COLLECTION







# NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS

HERE'S THE

SEX PISTOLS

HOLY TIE-IN'S BATMAN!

-----  
Retro is the new cool.

IP: [Logged](#)

**jorjorbynks**  
Member  
Member # 12312

 posted 10-29-2009 03:19 PM10-29-2009 02:19 PM



quote:

Originally posted by SMN from CA:

quote:

Originally posted by jorjorbynks:

The review on Slam Wrestling (linked above) is a good review. So good in fact that I know I won't be buying the book. My personal opinion is that this book and others like it (Ring of Hell) are exploiting a horrible tragedy in an attempt to further the author's own agenda(s) and profit.

I do not want to be a part of that.

---

**I assume you also skipped out on "Schindler's List", "Saving Private Ryan", "Platoon", etc. for the same reason?**

---

Not those films in particular, but I have chosen to not read/view others that I feel are exploiting a tragedy. Books that are rushed in to print after a tragic event are ones that really bug me.


I just stated my opinion, if you feel differently please go ahead and purchase the book.

-----  
Pro Wrestling is neither real nor fake. It's magic!

---

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**gary cubeta**  
Member  
Member # 24367

 posted 10-29-2009 03:21 PM 10-29-2009 02:21 PM     “ ”

If anyone has read it and they think the book is a) interesting b) entertaining c) informative ...

our lines are open ...




i have tito santana coming up in 45 minutes, but will be in all day today and would be glad to do a friendly dueling review ...

i have two copies of the book ... the boss has read it as well ...

---

IP: [Logged](#)

**Dank**  
Member  
Member # 2517


 posted 10-29-2009 03:23 PM 10-29-2009 02:23 PM    “ ”

No one cares how many copies you have. You can't name one thing that you disagree with in the book.

---

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**Brian Elliott**  
Member  
Member # 2971

 posted 10-29-2009 03:48 PM 10-29-2009 02:48 PM     “ ”

David's review at SLAM! was excellent. Aside from the wrestling aspect, I'm fascinated by the complexity of the story, so I'm very much looking forward to reading the book.

quote:

---

Originally posted by gary cubeta:  
**It's worth reading to wonder why it was written**

---





Gary, you don't think a crime of this magnitude and intrigue is worth covering in a book?

-----  
Brian Elliott is a British journalist, covering soccer, MMA, and pro wrestling.

He has written for the likes of the Associated Press, the Canadian Press, and Fighting Spirit Magazine, and has also appeared as a guest on Fight Network Radio.

IP: [Logged](#)

**Ken Viewer**  
Member  
Member # 5528

 posted 10-29-2009 04:30 PM 10-29-2009 03:30 PM    “ ”

quote:

Originally posted by gary cubeta:

**If Muchnik is the best the industry has to offer when it comes to investigative journalism, then we are in serious trouble ...**

**The book is awful in my opinion ... poorly written and without point.**

**But go buy it and then see if you feel differently ...**

If you'll merely spell the author's name correctly, and keep attacking the volume, all over the place, you'll be doing Muchnick a favor. These kinds of posts sell books.





If I had to list the top writers/reporters of wrestling books, I'd start with names including Kit Bauman, Steve Johnson, Greg Oliver, someone who so-far is both Internet-published and privately-published and named Steve Yohe, Marcus Griffin (not kidding), Jeff Leen and others. If I've misspelled any names here, someone please correct me. Muchnick is so contemporary in his topics I've not read as much of his work as I should have. If it happened after 1963, I usually have to pass on such books. No spare brain cells, money or time to read everything in the field.

Ken

[ 10-29-2009, 06:03 PM: Message edited by: Ken Viewer ]

IP: [Logged](#)

**MaskedGoofIV**  
Member  
Member # 5862




 posted 10-29-2009 04:49 PM 10-29-2009 03:49 PM    “ ”

My issue with Ring of Hell is that it used wrestling shoot interviews as sources. Yet, many of the guys are really in total work mode on those videos.

Also, there are too many "third person" tales that may be a little dubious as well. All the horror tales of Japan training...how do we know those tales haven't been exaggerated.

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**Madison  
Carter from  
TX**  
Member

 posted 10-29-2009 06:30 PM 10-29-2009 05:30 PM    “ ”

Haven't read the book, don't really ever intend to. I've had about as much of the Benoit tragedy as I can take.

Member # 1166

Mr. Muchnick, or his people, came to RD Reynolds and me about seeing if he could get access to the "vault" (for want of a better word) of deleted threads we had stored from the 2-3 day period it took place in; I guess so that they could see the real-time reaction from online fans. Thought about it a bit and decided I didn't want to let what was going on in those threads -- which weren't truly indicative of our board's usual nature -- reflect upon us or the fan community.

-----  
[The Marvel Universe Appendix](#) - the net's premiere source for Marvel's most obscure characters

"What the hell's worth doing in this world if it doesn't have a price to pay?" - Bob Morgan

IP: [Logged](#)

**gary cubeta**  
Member  
Member # 24367

 posted 10-29-2009 06:35 PM 10-29-2009 05:35 PM     “ ”

Look guys, I don't want to start a world war on this, but just check out the book and really try and read it and you will see what i mean

I have spoken with guys (behind the scenes) before and after interviews and they concur that this Benoit thing has been beaten silly and that the book offers nothing in the way of new light on the issue

It's a closed case ... Chris did the terrible crime and then killed himself ... What do you need a book for?

Have a good night ... [www.57talk.com](http://www.57talk.com)

IP: [Logged](#)

**Brian Elliott**  
Member  
Member # 2971

 posted 10-29-2009 06:44 PM 10-29-2009 05:44 PM     “ ”

quote:

Originally posted by gary cubeta:

**It's a closed case ... Chris did the terrible crime and then killed himself ... What do you need a book for?**

I don't think Muchnick is arguing that Benoit didn't do it. The book isn't about whether it's a closed case or not.

I don't speak for Irv, but I imagine the book was written to tell a fascinating, multi-angled (albeit incredibly morbid) real-life crime story to people who don't know about it, or are intrigued by it.






[ 10-29-2009, 05:45 PM: Message edited by: Brian Elliott ]

-----  
Brian Elliott is a British journalist, covering soccer, MMA, and pro wrestling. He has written for the likes of the Associated Press, the Canadian Press,

and Fighting Spirit Magazine, and has also appeared as a guest on Fight Network Radio.

IP: [Logged](#)

**Ron the  
Champ Miller**  
Member  
Member # 24289

 posted 10-29-2009 06:53 PM 10-29-2009 05:53 PM     “ ”

quote:

Originally posted by gary cubeta:  
**Does anyone want to come on the show and debate it with me?**

**I have two copies here**


**I really think it is terrible ... but that's just my opinion ...**

i would love to hear that show!! must hear radio, IMO

-----  
Dont forget 9/11..May they long live in our hearts!!!! - bp  
"The day they don't make fun of you, that means they don't give a damn about you."  
-Sammy Davis Jr.

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**Ken Viewer**  
Member  
Member # 5528

 posted 10-29-2009 07:02 PM 10-29-2009 06:02 PM    “ ”





Gary,

I'm a bit confused (as normal). Could you explain your objections again, in another post here, with details?

Ken

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**Ken Viewer**  
Member  
Member # 5528

 posted 10-29-2009 07:04 PM 10-29-2009 06:04 PM    “ ”





Can we get Irv Muchnick over here to respond, on this board, perhaps in this thread, or is there an issue involving him and the WCMB I don't know about?

Thanks.

Ken

IP: [Logged](#)

**BERT from NJ**  
Member  
Member # 4090

 posted 10-29-2009 07:33 PM 10-29-2009 06:33 PM    “ ”

quote:

Originally posted by Dank:

**Much like Ring of Hell it paints the biz in a less than flattering light, thus internet folk will be up in arms circling the wagons.**

---

Or maybe some like myself think "Ring of Hell" is a book that relied on alot of unsupported innuendo, exaggerated road stories, and a total lack of consideration of counterpoints to any argument the author clearly intended to make from the onset could only be enjoyed by someone who is predisposed to share the author's contemptible view of pro wrestling and its fanbase. The saddest part of this sensationalistic tripe was that any valid points - and there were a few - get lost in the over the top writing style, and again the author's obvious contempt for the subject matter.

The fact he couldn't understand that drive and single minded determination are innate qualities that make for many successful individuals in many walks of life. Not to mention the self sacrifice, torturous regimen, and yes-even hazing - that is an accepted part of many sports, is lost on him because wrestling ... is pre-determined? Ergo people within the business who treat their profession seriously, and dedicate themselves to being the best they can possibly be, at are at best, idiots, and, according to this book, ticking time bombs. And any fan who may find those qualities admirable or simply enjoy the diversion is either a slack jawed reprobate or somehow an enabling abettor.

That complete lack of understanding of what pro wrestling is, makes it hard to give this book much overall credibility, and for that reason can hardly be considered a "best" anything book. Anyone who swallows everything presented in this book without question is as much of a mark as any of the author's portrayals of wrestling fans.

EDIT: In full disclosure, I copied this from a post I made months ago, in response to past pimping of this book and attacks on anyone who may disagree with its viewpoint. I quit reading it midway through (for the reasons above) and have never gone back to finish it. IMO, it's an elongated rant and is as credible as Hogan's book and as non-interesting as Austin's, the only other wrestling books I was unable to finish along with this one.

[ 10-29-2009, 06:43 PM: Message edited by: BERT from NJ ]

-----  
"Kneel before Zod!"

General Zod (not God), giver of orders.

"Now, now, now, you were a little out of order yourself - You insulted him a little bit. You insulted him ... a little bit"

Jimmy "the Gent" Conway

"We don't like ANYBODY!" Gamesmaster Kevin Sullivan, leader of the Varsity Club

IP: [Logged](#)

**Ken Viewer**  
Member  
Member # 5528



posted 10-29-2009 07:42 PM10-29-2009 06:42 PM



Gary,

Have you read the massive archive of material that has been posted, provided and saved in special sections right here on the WCMB?

Here's one of the archives, in two parts:

<http://wrestlingclassics.com/.ubb/ultimatebb.php?ubb=forum;f=16>

(The other one, the timeline one, appears inaccessible to me at this moment. I keep getting a "404" error message.)

What's your opinion of its value as a blow-by-blow unveiling of the news and reports as they were surfacing?

Ken

[ 10-29-2009, 06:43 PM: Message edited by: Ken Viewer ]

IP: [Logged](#)

**Ken Viewer**  
Member  
Member # 5528

 posted 10-29-2009 07:52 PM 10-29-2009 06:52 PM    

Bert,

I'm confused again. "Ring of Hell," as far as I know, was written by "Matthew Randazzo V" and I never read it...but is the author's name Matthew Randazzo the Fifth or, like, say, Malcolm X, is his last name "V"?

And why are we discussing Randazzo the V's book when Gary's outrage is today directed at Irv Muchnick? (I've never read anything by Randazzo V so I can't comment at all on his work.)






Is anyone claiming Muchnick, Irv, is Randazzo V -- the same person or cut from the same cloth? Thanks for help on this.

Ken

[ 10-29-2009, 07:07 PM: Message edited by: Ken Viewer ]

IP: [Logged](#)

**Los Narcosatanicos**  
Member  
Member # 23572

 posted 10-29-2009 07:53 PM 10-29-2009 06:53 PM    

I don't how Ring of Hell is so bad and a zillion mainstream, non-wrestling books that cite other interviews aren't, much less other wrestling books that use plenty of other sources like Pain & Passion (Stampede history), Emerson Murray's Brody book, and Jeff Leen's Mildred Burke book.

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**gary cubeta**  
Member  
Member # 24367

 posted 10-29-2009 07:54 PM 10-29-2009 06:54 PM    

Irv can come on our show ...

I will tell him right on air that I hate the book and I don't appreciate the

attitude he has for the business ...

I won't sugar coat it one bit ... and I will give him all the reasons why ... while being polite ... no yelling ...

Just like a movie reviewer, reviewing a movie in front of the Producer/Creator ...






You guys set it up

[www.57talk.com](http://www.57talk.com)

IP: [Logged](#)

**Dank**

Member  
Member # 2517

 posted 10-29-2009 08:02 PM10-29-2009 07:02 PM    

quote:

---

Originally posted by Ken Viewer:  
**Gary,**

**I'm a bit confused (as normal). Could you explain your objections again, in another post here, with details?**

**Ken**

---

He can't, and he hasn't, because he hasn't read it.

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



This topic comprises 3 pages: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

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[July '07-Current](#) » Did any of you read the Chris and Nancy book by Irv Muchnik? (Page 2)

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This topic comprises 3 pages: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

Author	Topic: Did any of you read the Chris and Nancy book by Irv Muchnik?
<b>Ken Viewer</b> Member Member # 5528	<p> posted 10-29-2009 08:04 PM10-29-2009 07:04 PM    </p> <p>Gee, this isn't one o' them black-and-white issues.</p> <p>Rich Tate of Georgia Wrestling History, among other of his endeavors, posted this brief comment on the new Muchnick book on GWH on October 5th:</p> <p><b>"CHRIS AND NANCY: THE True Story of the Benoit Murder-Suicide &amp; Pro Wrestling's Cocktail of Death</b> – Release Date: November 2009 / Author: Irvin Muchnick / Publisher: ECW Press --- 'Incredible retelling of the tragic story, with all its odd twists and bizarre turns. The actions of no one are spared, with the exception of Nancy and young Daniel Benoit, as Muchnick recounts the events as they</p>



played out before your very eyes in the media, and then turns to what he has discovered since everyone moved onto other scandalous events or simply tuned back into wrestling without a second thought. Although it often appears as though the author is playing conspiracy theorist, clearly alleging cover-ups took place along the way, it is hard to argue with some of the holes he has found in his investigation and research. Highly recommended for anyone willing to relive the horrific events to find out what was overlooked during the official investigation and see who is or who isn't talking anymore.' – Rich Tate"

If Rich minds that I reposted it here, I'll take it down.

Ken

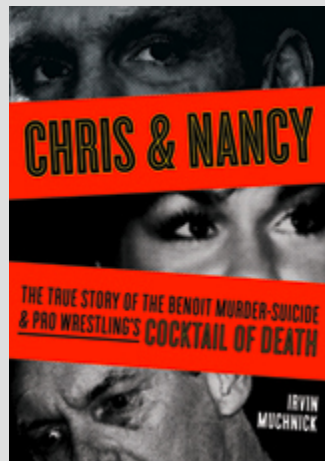
[ 10-29-2009, 07:05 PM: Message edited by: Ken Viewer ]

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**Ken Viewer**  
Member  
Member # 5528




 posted 10-29-2009 08:06 PM10-29-2009 07:06 PM    

Here's the Irv Muchnick book's cover:



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**BERT from NJ**  
Member  
Member # 4090

 posted 10-29-2009 08:08 PM10-29-2009 07:08 PM    

Ken

I was responding to a post that brought up "Ring of Hell" and insinuated (again) that anyone who has any critique of it is merely "circling the wagons" for the profession.

-----  
"Kneel before Zod!"  
General Zod (not God), giver of orders.

"Now, now, now, you were a little out of order yourself - You insulted him a little bit. You insulted him ... a little bit"

Jimmy "the Gent" Conway

"We don't like ANYBODY!" Gamesmaster Kevin Sullivan, leader of the Varsity Club

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**Dank**

Member  
Member # 2517



posted 10-29-2009 08:17 PM10-29-2009 07:17 PM



quote:

---

Originally posted by BERT from NJ:  
**Ken**

**I was responding to a post that brought up "Ring of Hell" and insinuated (again) that anyone who has any critique of it is merely "circling the wagons" for the profession.**

---

I'll give it to you, you're 100% right this time.

There has been no legitimate critique in this thread from anyone who has actually read the book. It's all speculation and in gary cubeta's case, ridiculous posts from someone who can't even cite one thing that's in the book, then thinly veiled attempts to get you to go visit his gold exchanging website.

IP: [Logged](#)

**Ken Viewer**

Member  
Member # 5528



posted 10-29-2009 08:53 PM10-29-2009 07:53 PM



All I know about Gary Cubeta and his gold-investing site is that when I listen to, for specific instance, the Mark Nulty interview (I could find Part I, but gather there are five parts), so far I haven't heard any commercials or other interruptions pitching me to buy something.

If that's the standard practice there, I don't much care what they're selling, as long as it's legal and honest. I don't invest in anything that isn't U.S. government/government-agency insured, but I also, in almost 1,000 posts on the ongoing worldwide banking/Wall Street/insurers' catastrophe, never gave anyone any investing/financial advice, and don't intend to go in that direction now.

If Dave Meltzer provided free audio interviews on his site, I'd go there to listen. If the U.S. Treasury Department, which isn't good for much of anything, got Crimson Mask to do audio/video interviews, I'd go there to listen. And since they can't do better, the Treasury Department should hire guys like Mask, Yohe, Nulty, and the whole gang to interview anyone who's relevant to the Golden Age of wrestling and is still alive.

When should these interviews be done...after no one is still with us, me included?

Bravo to Gary for doing the interviews of them wrestling personalities while folks is still breathin'.






Ken

[ 10-29-2009, 07:58 PM: Message edited by: Ken Viewer ]

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**SMN from CA**

Member  
Member # 3253

 posted 10-30-2009 12:32 AM 10-29-2009 11:32 PM    

quote:

---

Originally posted by jorjorbynks:  
quote:

---

**Originally posted by SMN from CA:**  
quote:

---

**Originally posted by jorjorbynks:**  
The review on Slam Wrestling (linked above) is a good review. So good in fact that I know I won't be buying the book. My personal opinion is that this book and others like it (Ring of Hell) are exploiting a horrible tragedy in an attempt to further the author's own agenda(s) and profit. I do not want to be a part of that.

---

**I assume you also skipped out on "Schindler's List", "Saving Private Ryan", "Platoon", etc. for the same reason?**

---

**Not those films in particular, but I have chosen to not read/view others that I feel are exploiting a tragedy. Books that are rushed in to print after a tragic event are ones that really bug me.**

---

Nearly 2 1/2 years later is a "rush"?

What do you consider the appropriate amount of time before a historical event can be written about without the accusation that the author is trying to exploit the event for profit?

IP: [Logged](#)

**Cornette Fan**

Member  
Member # 4170

 posted 10-30-2009 01:55 AM 10-30-2009 12:55 AM   

quote:

---

Originally posted by gary cubeta:  
**I think it is the worst wrestling book written yet ... torture to read ...**

---

**just wondering if anyone else got a copy**

---

Gary, you call this the "worst wrestling book written yet." Do you consider it worse than Chyna's book, Vince Russo's book, or The Complete Idiot's Guide To Pro Wrestling?

If so, why? I'm just curious. I haven't read the Benoit book and don't plan to.

Ring of Hell was enough of that subject for me.

Later,  
Nate

-----  
Hulk Hogan, you are a household word, but so is garbage. And it stinks when it gets old too.  
(Jim Cornette...1997)

If your mother wasn't so fancy we could shop at a gas station like everybody else.  
(Homer Simpson)

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**Jack Raines.**

Member  
Member # 6129




 posted 10-30-2009 02:51 AM 10-30-2009 01:51 AM    “ ”

I had no interest in this book until I read through this thread, now I'll probably end up picking up a copy to see what all the fuss is about.

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**Dank**

Member  
Member # 2517

 posted 10-30-2009 07:40 AM 10-30-2009 06:40 AM    “ ”

quote:

Originally posted by Cornette Fan:




**Gary, you call this the "worst wrestling book written yet." Do you consider it worse than Chyna's book, Vince Russo's book, or The Complete Idiot's Guide To Pro Wrestling?**

Come on man, give Gary time to actually read the book that he pre-hated so much he had to start an entire thread on it.

IP: [Logged](#)

**Crimson Mask  
from FL**

Administrator  
Member # 10449

 posted 10-30-2009 08:57 AM 10-30-2009 07:57 AM    “ ”

I wonder if some people may still have Irv Muchnick mixed up with Phil Mushnick.




So long from the Sunshine State!

-----  
*How do you arm bar your anxiety?---*John Machado

IP: [Logged](#)

**Frankenrogers  
2**

Member  
Member # 5671

 posted 10-30-2009 09:23 AM 10-30-2009 08:23 AM    “ ”

quote:

Originally posted by Cornette Fan:  
quote:

---

**Originally posted by gary cubeta:**  
**[qb] I think it is the worst wrestling book written yet ... torture to read ...**

**just wondering if anyone else got a copy**

---

Gary, you call this the "worst wrestling book written yet." Do you consider it worse than Chyna's book, Vince Russo's book, or The Complete Idiot's Guide To Pro Wrestling?/QB]

---

I bought The Complete Idiot's Guide To Pro Wrestling when it came out haha. In my defense it was the only wrestling book that I had seen up to that point.

---

IP: [Logged](#)

**StranglerLou**  
**from Fla**

Member  
Member # 4478



posted 10-30-2009 09:26 AM10-30-2009 08:26 AM



quote:

---

Originally posted by Ken Viewer:

**All I know about Gary Cubeta and his gold-investing site is that when I listen to, for specific instance, the Mark Nulty interview (I could find Part I, but gather there are five parts), so far I haven't heard any commercials or other interruptions pitching me to buy something.**

**If that's the standard practice there, I don't much care what they're selling, as long as it's legal and honest. I don't invest in anything that isn't U.S. government/government-agency insured, but I also, in almost 1,000 posts on the ongoing worldwide banking/Wall Street/insurers' catastrophe, never gave anyone any investing/financial advice, and don't intend to go in that direction now.**

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**When should these interviews be done...after no one is still with us, me included?**

**Bravo to Gary for doing the interviews of them wrestling personalities while folks is still breathin'.**

**Ken**

---

I agree. This doesn't appear to be part of advertising strategy. I come here and deal with some advertising and have no problem with it at all.

-----

"Ageing weakens eyesight, but maturity lets you see through the B.S. It's a fair trade." Lou Thesz

IP: [Logged](#)

**Tabé**

Member  
Member # 1083

 posted 10-30-2009 11:20 AM10-30-2009 10:20 AM     

quote:

Originally posted by Los Narcosatanicos:

**I don't how Ring of Hell is so bad and a zillion mainstream, non-wrestling books that cite other interviews aren't, much less other wrestling books that use plenty of other sources like Pain & Passion (Stampede history), Emerson Murray's Brody book, and Jeff Leen's Mildred Burke book.**







Ring of Hell gets slammed because it uses shoot interviews as sources. Shoot interviews are notorious for being less than 100% honest and to rely on them indicates questionable credibility. HOWEVER...what most people ignore is that Randazzo nearly always double-checked the stories and used multiple sources. It's not like he just went off of what one guy said.

Tabé

IP: [Logged](#)

**Tabé**

Member  
Member # 1083

 posted 10-30-2009 11:58 AM10-30-2009 10:58 AM     

quote:

Originally posted by Crimson Mask from FL:

**I wonder if some people may still have Irv Muchnick mixed up with Phil Mushnick.**

**So long from the Sunshine State!**






Shhhh...Gary's still too busy being upset to have noticed that minor detail.

Tabé

IP: [Logged](#)

**Ken Viewer**

Member  
Member # 5528

 posted 10-30-2009 04:53 PM10-30-2009 03:53 PM     

I once got hustled into purchasing organic oat bran instead of the the regular variety. (Sprinkle it, uncooked, on still-warm roasted chicken and suddenly you have Kentucky Unfried Crispy Chicken. Or eat a large container of it, cooked, at one sitting and then walk down the entire length of Fifth Avenue.) The organic stuff, raw or cooked, looked and tasted like mush.

So I took the extra, sealed container I'd purchased back to the food store and said, "Don't Mushnick me."

I've read Dan Parker, and Phil Mushnick, you're no Dan Parker. Nor Damon Runyon.


Gary, can you book Mushnick for your show?

Ken

IP: [Logged](#)

**Brian Elliott**

Member  
Member # 2971

 posted 10-30-2009 05:25 PM10-30-2009 04:25 PM     

quote:

Originally posted by Ken Viewer:  
**Gary, can you book Mushnick for your show?**



**"Standing room only here at WCMB!"**

-----  
Brian Elliott is a British journalist, covering soccer, MMA, and pro wrestling. He

has written for the likes of the Associated Press, the Canadian Press, and Fighting Spirit Magazine, and has also appeared as a guest on Fight Network Radio.

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**BERT from NJ**

Member  
Member # 4090



posted 10-30-2009 07:37 PM10-30-2009 06:37 PM



quote:

Originally posted by Tabe:

quote:

**Originally posted by Los Narcosatonicos:**

**I don't how Ring of Hell is so bad and a zillion mainstream, non-wrestling books that cite other interviews aren't, much less other wrestling books that use plenty of other sources like Pain & Passion (Stampede history), Emerson Murray's Brody book, and Jeff Leen's Mildred Burke book.**

**Ring of Hell gets slammed because it uses shoot interviews as sources. Shoot interviews are notorious for being less than 100% honest and to rely on them indicates questionable credibility. HOWEVER...what most people ignore is that Randazzo nearly always double-checked the stories and used multiple sources. It's not like he just went off of what one guy said.**

**Tabe**

Ring of Hell should get slammed because it promoted itself as some sort of expose on pro wrestling, as if it uncovered something through some investigative journalism. You know, the sort that presents opposing views, breaks through the facade, and connects the factual dots. Instead, this guy went in with an obvious agenda. He only used stories or quotes he came across to back up his point of view, and never once presented a contradictory point when it existed or an opposing view. By doing so, he was never able to break down the opposing view with his argument.

Again, there were plenty of good points in the book, but the over the top writing style made it come across as a rant, rather than an objective examination - which it clearly wasn't. So to me it has little credibility and the valid points get lost in that.

The only conclusion I came out of it from the author was, that since pro wrestling is "fake", anybody who treats it as something other than low rent entertainment, either as fan or performer, is an idiot, or a simmering psychopath.

-----  
"Kneel before Zod!"

General Zod (not God), giver of orders.

"Now, now, now, you were a little out of order yourself - You insulted him a little bit. You insulted him ... a little bit"

Jimmy "the Gent" Conway

"We don't like ANYBODY!" Gamesmaster Kevin Sullivan, leader of the Varsity



Club

IP: [Logged](#)

**Erik from PU**

Member  
Member # 8376

 posted 10-30-2009 08:48 PM 10-30-2009 07:48 PM    66 77

quote:

---

Originally posted by Crimson Mask from FL:  
**I wonder if some people may still have Irv Muchnick mixed up with Phil Mushnick.**

**So long from the Sunshine State!**

---


I was confusing him with Sam, which made NO sense to me. Is he a relation?

[ 10-30-2009, 07:49 PM: Message edited by: Erik from PU ]

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**Crimson Mask  
from FL**

Administrator  
Member # 10449

 posted 10-30-2009 09:00 PM 10-30-2009 08:00 PM    66 77




Irv is Sam's nephew.

-----  
*How do you arm bar your anxiety?---*John Machado

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**Erik from PU**

Member  
Member # 8376





 posted 10-30-2009 09:27 PM 10-30-2009 08:27 PM    66 77

Thank you.

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**derek burgan**

Member  
Member # 3746

 posted 10-31-2009 04:18 PM 10-31-2009 03:18 PM    66 77

Gary and I actually had a debate about the book last night. I think it's one of the better wrestling books that have come out in a while and we go toe to toe over some of his thoughts.

IP: [Logged](#)

**Natural Man  
from CO**

Member  
Member # 20460

 posted 10-31-2009 11:23 PM 10-31-2009 10:23 PM    66 77

I'll go ahead and post my thoughts. As someone who owns Wrestling Babylon, my opinion is that Irv Muchnick is a muckraker who only becomes interested in wrestling when something negative with it comes up. If Meltzer or even an outside journalist did a book about the Benoit tragedy, I'd check it out, but since it's Muchnick, I'll pass.

IP: [Logged](#)

**Mister Hollywood**  
Member  
Member # 8547

 posted 10-31-2009 11:41 PM 10-31-2009 10:41 PM    

quote:


Originally posted by Dank:

**No one cares how many copies you have. You can't name one thing that you disagree with in the book.**

You strike me as being some sort of self-styled contrarian.

IP: [Logged](#)

**gary cubeta**  
Member  
Member # 24367

 posted 10-31-2009 11:51 PM 10-31-2009 10:51 PM    

I know I can't win with you guys and you don't like our shows (at least most of the shows) ...

but, I really believe, that if you read the book, you will agree that it is one of the worst pieces of writing with no point or focus, in the history of the industry ... that's why I asked you guys to buy it ... so people can see once and for all that Muchnick is a lousy writer who tries to impress by using big words and lousy sentence structure ... If he comes on air with us, I will start reading out of his book and illustrate on air that he cannot write.



Derek Burgan and I had an awesome debate on the book and now it is up to you guys to decide:

[www.57talk.com](http://www.57talk.com)

[ 10-31-2009, 11:09 PM: Message edited by: gary cubeta ]

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

**Nicko**  
Member  
Member # 4771

 posted 10-31-2009 11:55 PM 10-31-2009 10:55 PM    

Most of the Muchnick wrestling written books/articles are a bore and rehashed and then spiced a bit, we all know the Benoit tragedy over and over and over. From a strictly wrestling standpoint read Gary Harts book, a great story from a guy who start to finish was a major part of the business during what in my opinion was the greatest time to be a fan.

IP: [Logged](#)

**Seven**  
Member  
Member # 3904

 posted 11-01-2009 12:47 AM 10-31-2009 11:47 PM    

Gary I like most of the shows and think you take this sort of stuff way to personally. People are criticizing you because you really didn't articulate a reason for disliking the book after starting the thread. I almost guarantee you that most of the people who visit this site love 57talk.

I haven't read the book but probably will. Personally I thought Derek's points were much better than yours in the debate, though I also don't think Irv is the kind of guy that is going to appeal to a lot of hardcore smart wrestling fans.

IP: [Logged](#)

**SMN from CA**

Member  
Member # 3253

 posted 11-01-2009 01:01 AM 11-01-2009 12:01 AM    

Just listened to the Gary vs. Derek debate. I haven't read the book, which I think makes me a fairly impartial observer, and I have to say I think Derek came off better.


The problem I have with Gary's review is that it seems like he doesn't like the topic of the book rather than having any real concrete criticism about this book in particular (beyond his complaint that Muchnik uses too many big words). His opinion as stated several times during the debate is (paraphrasing) "Benoit killed his wife and son, story over, there's nothing more to discuss". Which is a fine opinion to have I suppose, even if it's one I disagree with, but I would think holding that view sort of disqualifies you from having a credible opinion of the book.

As an analogy, it's like someone writing a book about the 2008 World Series, and me coming on here to say the book was awful because we all know the Phillies won so there was no point in writing the book.

IP: [Logged](#)

**gary cubeta**

Member  
Member # 24367

 posted 11-01-2009 01:07 AM 11-01-2009 12:07 AM    

I had my hat handed to me in that debate

There's only one problem ... the book still sucks

buy it and see for yourself ...

[www.57talk.com](http://www.57talk.com)

IP: [Logged](#)

**Stomper  
from SK**

Member  
Member #  
5703



 posted 11-01-2009 01:15 AM 11-01-2009 12:15 AM    



-----  
"When he's through counting his bruises, he'll revert to the farm life he left in Carbon, Alberta, when he embarked on his wrestling career. The Stomper credits Stu Hart with launching his career and adding polish to his techniques and strength to his body. He's come a long way since he left Hart's basement gym a decade ago." (by Hal Walker, from the CALGARY HERALD, Jan. 6, 1974)

IP: [Logged](#)

**Tabé**  
Member  
Member # 1083

 posted 11-01-2009 02:57 AM 11-01-2009 01:57 AM     

quote:

Originally posted by gary cubeta:

**I know I can't win with you guys and you don't like our shows (at least most of the shows)**

Can't win? All you have to do to "win" in this thread is make a post that says:

"I hate this book because of the following specific things:..."

Instead you just keep saying "the book sucks" and then "buy it". That, of course, makes no sense. I know that I, personally, don't tell people to go see movies I hated or read books that suck. And then if they ask me WHY I hated them - I have a reason.

Can't say I don't like your shows since I've never listened. And if this is the kind of insightful analysis I can expect from your shows, I won't be.

Tabé

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**Sunking278**

Member  
Member # 24721

 posted 11-01-2009 03:18 AM 11-01-2009 02:18 AM    

Gary, I haven't read this book and I never will. I'm with you on this: Benoit killed his wife and son, it was sick and tragic and what more needs to be said than that? It'd be one thing if he were alive and could be put on trial, but he isn't. We can blast Vince McMahon all day for the poor quality of his wrestling product or for his business practices, but he didn't cause Benoit to commit murder, and I don't see a shred of evidence there was any sort of cover-up. How could there have been a cover-up when the media reported what happened before Vince and the rest of the WWE could catch their breath? And yes, I listened to the 57talk interview with Derek Burgan, and I still believe it's pointless to assign blame to anybody but Chris Benoit himself. Hundreds upon hundreds of pro wrestlers have suffered concussions, or taken steroids, etc. etc., but only one killed his wife and son. For the record, I consider Nancy Sullivan/Benoit to be the greatest female performer this industry has ever known - and the most beautiful - but I'm sick to death of hearing about the horrible way her life ended. Let her and her son rest in peace.




Keep up the good work, Gary! Both in your interviews on 57talk, and your work providing currency of real value to the American people.

[ 11-01-2009, 03:16 AM: Message edited by: Sunking278 ]

IP: [Logged](#)

**Some Guy  
Named Stan**

Member  
Member # 6083

 posted 11-01-2009 05:46 AM 11-01-2009 04:46 AM    

quote:

Originally posted by gary cubeta:

**I know I can't win with you guys and you don't like our shows (at least most of the shows) ...**

**but, I really believe, that if you read the book, you will agree that it is one of the worst pieces of writing with no point or focus, in the history of the industry ... that's why I asked you guys to buy it ... so people can see once and for all that Muchnick is a lousy writer who tries to impress by using big words and lousy sentence structure ... If he comes on air with us, I will start reading out of his book and illustrate on air that he cannot write.**

**Derek Burgan and I had an awesome debate on the book and now it is up to you guys to decide:**

**[www.57talk.com](http://www.57talk.com)**

You win with me everytime you do one of your excellent interviews Gary. Please keep them coming.

IP: [Logged](#)

**antichristo**  
Member  
Member # 8575

 posted 11-01-2009 06:57 AM 11-01-2009 05:57 AM



quote:

---

Originally posted by gary cubeta:  
**I had my hat handed to me in that debate**

**There's only one problem ... the book still sucks**

**buy it and see for yourself ...**

[www.57talk.com](http://www.57talk.com)


---

If the book is so awful, why encourage anyone to spend money on it? That sounds kinda kooky.

-----  
<http://allstarchampionshipbelts.webs.com/>

IP: [Logged](#)

**gary cubeta**  
Member  
Member # 24367

 posted 11-01-2009 09:10 AM 11-01-2009 08:10 AM



the book is only \$15

i don't think it is that strange to say that if you want proof for yourself that this Benoit story is being used to make \$\$\$ (and the book is poorly written), then pick up a copy and decide for yourself. You can probably even sneak a peak at the local bookstore. All you have to do is read through a couple of pages. You'll see ...

The thing no one mentioned about Derek "cleaning my clock" is that he's arguing how much he hates vince and the steroids and the work conditions and yet he is still shelling out his money for the ppv's (I thought that was a very weak moment) ... I've been very clear in that I don't like the product, I don't watch the product and not one penny of my brutally hard earned money goes into Vince's pocket

If the guys want to fill themselves with juice I don't care ... Supertar Graham was on our show and said if he was young again he would take them again (even knowing the health risks). What am I supposed to do, plead with him/them to stop?

Today I am going to watch the NFL and I imagine a bunch of the guys are on some form of the juice ... So what? If they want to do damage to themselves, do it ... My only concern is about the quality of play. I want to see quality play that takes my mind off the problems of the world. They are making millions of dollars, but I do ask to see great games (shortage of those this year for sure). Otherwise, I won't be renewing my Sunday Ticket sub next year.

I used to think more like Derek, but then I got older and realized that the best way to show displeasure is to zipper the wallet. If you guys stopped giving Vince money, he would make the product into whatever you wanted in order to

get you spending again.

glad the shows are sparking this type of debate and I am adjusting to having a "thicker skin" ... it's a work in progress

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**antichristo**

Member  
Member # 8575



posted 11-01-2009 09:29 AM11-01-2009 08:29 AM



quote:

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Originally posted by gary cubeta:  
**the book is only \$15**

**i don't think it is that strange to say that if you want proof for yourself that this Benoit story is being used to make \$\$\$ (and the book is poorly written), then pick up a copy and decide for yourself.**

---

Haha, the books very existence is all the proof we need that it's being produced to exploit the Benoit murder/suicide. But that's nothing new, we're all guilty of buying at least one book, dvd or magazine that exploited some death or tragedy. In my dvd collection I have Helter Skelter, The Guyana Tragedy, Guyana-Cult of the Damned, In the Line of Fire-The FBI Murders and The World at War. All involve real deaths and all of them are exploitation films. So the deciding factor about the Benoit book should be this...is it well written exploitation, or drek? According to you (as well as many others) it's drek. So pardon me if I'm slightly confused by your critique/encouragement to buy the book.

[ 11-01-2009, 08:35 AM: Message edited by: antichristo ]

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<http://allstarchampionshipbelts.webs.com/>

IP: [Logged](#)

**derek burgan**

Member  
Member # 3746



posted 11-01-2009 09:35 AM11-01-2009 08:35 AM



quote:

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Originally posted by gary cubeta:

**The thing no one mentioned about Derek "cleaning my clock" is that he's arguing how much he hates vince and the steroids and the work conditions and yet he is still shelling out his money for the ppv's (I thought that was a very weak moment) ... I've been very clear in that I don't like the product, I don't watch the product and not one penny of my brutally hard earned money goes into Vince's pocket**

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

I have never said that I hate Vince McMahon. You put those words into my mouth during the debate. I think there are several things that Vince could do

that would improve wrestling in general and specifically the lives of his employees, but that is his decision to make.

IP: [Logged](#)

**Brian Elliott**

Member  
Member # 2971

 posted 11-01-2009 09:54 AM 11-01-2009 08:54 AM     

Gary, I really enjoy the interviews on the site, on the rare chance I get a chance to listen. But you aren't doing yourself any favours with these odd posts.

quote:

---

Originally posted by gary cubeta:

**i don't think it is that strange to say that if you want proof for yourself that this Benoit story is being used to make \$\$\$ (and the book is poorly written), then pick up a copy and decide for yourself.**

---

Crime stories are written and published every day. Do all of them exploit crimes for money? I, for one, am picking up the book because I'm interested in the story of this crime, its circumstances, and how it was investigated by the police. How can you possibly know that Muchnick wasn't similarly intrigued and wanted to write a book detailing the above? And even if he wasn't motivated by those factors, how can you prove he was motivated by money?

quote:

---

Originally posted by gary cubeta:

**The thing no one mentioned about Derek "cleaning my clock" is that he's arguing how much he hates vince and the steroids and the work conditions and yet he is still shelling out his money for the ppv's**

---

I despise some of the things that (FIFA President) Sepp Blatter's has done to soccer. However, I still watch and give my money to soccer, because it is the game that I love, not Blatter. For many it's the same with Vince and wrestling, and if the legal system says Vince hasn't done any wrong, I don't see why people should feel guilty about buying PPVs or DVDs.

quote:

---

Originally posted by gary cubeta:

**If you guys stopped giving Vince money, he would make the product into whatever you wanted in order to get you spending again.**

---

Lumping the various posters from WCMB as "you guys" kills this argument. Some people enjoy the pay-per-views, a more vocal percentage do not.

Vince has preferred to appeal to non-wrestling fans, as opposed to wrestling fans, for several years now. He won't even use the word "wrestling", for goodness sake. He's not interested in trying to win old-school fans back - he clearly prefers to create new fans from the people who also watch today's other "entertainment" shows.

[ 11-01-2009, 09:16 AM: Message edited by: Brian Elliott ]



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Brian Elliott is a British journalist, covering soccer, MMA, and pro wrestling. He has written for the likes of the Associated Press, the Canadian Press, and Fighting Spirit Magazine, and has also appeared as a guest on Fight Network Radio.

IP: [Logged](#)

**OSJ from NM  
by way of WA**

Member  
Member # 6136



posted 11-01-2009 10:08 AM 11-01-2009 09:08 AM



quote:

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Originally posted by gary cubeta:  
**the book is only \$15**

i don't think it is that strange to say that if you want proof for yourself that this Benoit story is being used to make \$\$\$ (and the book is poorly written), then pick up a copy and decide for yourself. You can probably even sneak a peak at the local bookstore. All you have to do is read through a couple of pages. You'll see ...

The thing no one mentioned about Derek "cleaning my clock" is that he's arguing how much he hates vince and the steroids and the work conditions and yet he is still shelling out his money for the ppv's (I thought that was a very weak moment) ... I've been very clear in that I don't like the product, I don't watch the product and not one penny of my brutally hard earned money goes into Vince's pocket

If the guys want to fill themselves with juice I don't care ... Supertar Graham was on our show and said if he was young again he would take them again (even knowing the health risks). What am I supposed to do, plead with him/them to stop?

Today I am going to watch the NFL and I imagine a bunch of the guys are on some form of the juice ... So what? If they want to do damage to themselves, do it ... My only concern is about the quality of play. I want to see quality play that takes my mind off the problems of the world. They are making millions of dollars, but I do ask to see great games (shortage of those this year for sure). Otherwise, I won't be renewing my Sunday Ticket sub next year.

I used to think more like Derek, but then I got older and realized that the best way to show displeasure is to zipper the wallet. If you guys stopped giving Vince money, he would make the product into whatever you wanted in order to get you spending again.

glad the shows are sparking this type of debate and I am adjusting to having a "thicker skin" ... it's a work in progress

[www.57talk.com](http://www.57talk.com)

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Gary:

In the time it took you to write the above, you could have listed a few reasons

as to why you think this particular book sucks. I'm not asking for a Michael Dirda-quality essay, I'm just asking you to articulate some specific points. If as you say, the book is badly written please explain how it is badly written.

Cheers,






OSJ

-----  
"What you say sounds reasonable enough," said the man, "but I refuse to be bribed. I am here to whip people, and whip them I shall!")  
-Franz Kafka - The Trial

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**Tojo Boy**

Member  
Member # 306


 posted 11-01-2009 10:18 AM 11-01-2009 09:18 AM     " "

Why should I waste \$15 on a book that's supposed to be bad?? Anyway, I could care less about Chris Benoit. He's a piece of sh&% for doing what he did--end of story.

IP: [Logged](#)

**derek burgan**

Member  
Member # 3746

 posted 11-01-2009 10:37 AM 11-01-2009 09:37 AM     " "

quote:

Originally posted by Tojo Boy:

**Why should I waste \$15 on a book that's supposed to be bad?? Anyway, I could care less about Chris Benoit. He's a piece of sh&% for doing what he did--end of story.**

The book *isn't* bad. And while I can't speak for Irv, I would say the whole point of the book is that we shouldn't be at "end of story" without looking more deeply at the story itself. We were told "THERE IS NOTHING TO SEE BEHIND THE CURTAIN" and took it at face value. Irv rips off several curtains and lets the reader decide for themselves whether or not one particular part of the case was covered to a satisfactory degree. I guarantee that if you go into Chris & Nancy with an open mind, you will come out almost shocked and how we were all played (or misled, or duped, pick your own term) by various people involved with this tragedy and it's follow up.

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





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[July '07-Current](#) » Did any of you read the Chris and Nancy book by Irv Muchnik? (Page 3)

 [UBBFriend: Email this page to someone!](#)

This topic comprises 3 pages: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

Author	Topic: Did any of you read the Chris and Nancy book by Irv Muchnik?
<b>Dank</b> Member Member # 2517	 posted 11-01-2009 11:21 AM11-01-2009 10:21 AM    
	quote:
	Originally posted by OSJ from NM by way of WA: <b>Gary:</b>  <b>In the time it took you to write the above, you could have listed a few reasons as to why you think this particular book sucks.</b>  Screw that, all anyone has asked for is ONE THING in the book that he disagreed with.  IP: <a href="#">Logged</a>
<b>SMN from CA</b> Member Member # 3253	 posted 11-01-2009 12:43 PM11-01-2009 11:43 AM    
	quote:
	Originally posted by Dank: quote:  Originally posted by OSJ from NM by way of WA: <b>Gary:</b>  <b>In the time it took you to write the above, you could have listed a few reasons as to why you think this particular book sucks.</b>  <b>Screw that, all anyone has asked for is ONE THING in the book that he disagreed with.</b>  Not that I should have to do this for him in the first place, but from the debate with Derek, Gary's main criticisms of the book seem to be (and Gary, if I'm misrepresenting you here feel free to jump in and correct me):  1) We already know everything there is to know about this story (Chris killed his family, case closed) and therefore it's silly to write a book about it  2) Irv used too many big words in the book, in Gary's opinion solely for the purpose of proving how smart he is  3) Gary disagrees with the assertion that I'm assuming is in the book that the Benoit murders can be in some way be blamed on external factors like Benoit's numerous concussions, steroid use, etc.

IP: [Logged](#)

**SMN from CA**

Member  
Member # 3253



posted 11-01-2009 12:48 PM11-01-2009 11:48 AM



quote:

Originally posted by Brian Elliott:

**Gary, I really enjoy the interviews on the site, on the rare chance I get a chance to listen. But you aren't doing yourself any favours with these odd posts.**

quote:

Originally posted by gary cubeta:

**i don't think it is that strange to say that if you want proof for yourself that this Benoit story is being used to make \$\$\$ (and the book is poorly written), then pick up a copy and decide for yourself.**

**Crime stories are written and published every day. Do all of them exploit crimes for money? I, for one, am picking up the book because I'm interested in the story of this crime, its circumstances, and how it was investigated by the police. How can you possibly know that Muchnick wasn't similarly intrigued and wanted to write a book detailing the above? And even if he wasn't motivated by those factors, how can you prove he was motivated by money?**

I also wanted to jump in to agree with this. Based on Gary's logic, "Schindler's List" should have never been made since, after all, we already know the story (Nazis killed a bunch of Jews, end of story) and Steven Spielberg is just using the Holocaust to make a buck.

IP: [Logged](#)

**Crimson Mask from FL**

Administrator  
Member # 10449



posted 11-01-2009 01:15 PM11-01-2009 12:15 PM



Haven't read the book per se but I'm on Irv's mailing list and have been loosely keeping up with his blog posts and thus I assume I have more or less skimmed the book in individual segments.

Seems clear that his focus is on the investigation rather than the crime itself, and it is a continuation of his long standing scrutiny of how the W-W-current/letter has easily and successfully manipulated the authorities and the media when it suits their purpose. I understand that this particular case was so open and shut that the question could be regarded as academic, and that the karma was more or less leveled with the death of Benoit himself, but I believe the point is cautionary for a potential future instance (or several past ones, which those who cannot remember are condemned to etc.) where perhaps it might NOT be so open and shut and justice might not end up being even close to served.

And I still wonder if some people are still mixed up about Irv and Phil.

[ 11-01-2009, 12:16 PM: Message edited by: Crimson Mask from FL ]

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*How do you arm bar your anxiety?---*John Machado

IP: [Logged](#)

**Travl**

Member  
Member # 4304



posted 11-01-2009 01:27 PM11-01-2009 12:27 PM



As I read it, Gary's biggest complaint is that the book is, simply, *poorly written*. Not that the info in it is bad or inaccurate, or that the PoV expressed is wrong. Rather, the *presentation* of the info is questionable.

Now, maybe Gary made allusions to Irv trying to capitalize on the tragedy as opposed to presenting new info on it, but if so I missed them. His latest comments seem to point toward Irv not being very good with grammar and sentence structure (which can kill appreciation of an issue faster than just about anything else).

-----  
The Traveller  
a fan since '68....

*Leeet's juuuuust slide this over to the Ak-Bar before Mr. Nulty has a myocardial infarction and a litter of wombats, huh?* -- Crimson Mask 1

The reason so many of us fans here complain about wrestling today is because Mr. Thesz spoiled us -- barry jordan

IP: [Logged](#)

**gary cubeta**

Member  
Member # 24367



posted 11-01-2009 01:52 PM11-01-2009 12:52 PM



the book is written like a textbook for building a mainframe computer

check it out ... you can slam me on this, but i've spoken with a lot of insiders off air and they don't think he can write either

"big words" are ok, but not when they are used to show how smart you are and how dumb the reader is ... i get the feeling he is speaking from above and pummeling me with word after word that i've never used before ...

he pounds dave meltzer in the book, but for a silly reason as dave's coverage of Benoit was fine

i have nothing against irv and always push books on interviews, but this thing is so bad that i just had to open my big mouth

sorry ...

IP: [Logged](#)

**Brian Elliott**

Member  
Member # 2971



posted 11-02-2009 05:28 AM11-02-2009 04:28 AM



quote:

Originally posted by gary cubeta:

**the book is written like a textbook for building a mainframe computer**

**check it out ... you can slam me on this, but i've spoken with a lot of insiders off air and they don't think he can write either**

**"big words" are ok, but not when they are used to show how smart you are and how dumb the reader is ... i get the feeling he is speaking from above and pummeling me with word after word that i've never used before ...**

**he pounds dave meltzer in the book, but for a silly reason as dave's coverage of Benoit was fine**

**i have nothing against irv and always push books on interviews, but this thing is so bad that i just had to open my big mouth**

**sorry ...**

---

No need to apologise, it's been an interesting thread. But your last post should have been your first, so we immediately knew the main reason you disliked the book!

An author's style is a perfectly legitimate reason to dislike a book, and I agree to a certain extent that Irv's style can be a little much. I'm reminded of one line from the Muchnick/Greg Oliver/etc. Benoit essay book, where he wrote: "Pieces of the Benoit story underscore the illogic and chicanery of these a la carte eschatalogues". Still, that's his style, and it is nice to have a little variety now and again.

-----  
Brian Elliott is a British journalist, covering soccer, MMA, and pro wrestling. He has written for the likes of the Associated Press, the Canadian Press, and Fighting Spirit Magazine, and has also appeared as a guest on Fight Network Radio.

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**Rich Tate**  
Administrator  
Member # 1374

 posted 11-02-2009 06:55 AM 11-02-2009 05:55 AM     “ ”

Irv was on Ringside Rap Friday night, and I told him of some of the feelings about he and other authors regarding the Benoit tragedy, and then gave him the opportunity to speak to his detractors. Feel free to listen [here](#).

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[Georgia Wrestling History](#)

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**Brian Elliott**  
Member  
Member # 2971

 posted 11-02-2009 07:01 AM 11-02-2009 06:01 AM     “ ”

Thanks Rich!

-----  
Brian Elliott is a British journalist, covering soccer, MMA, and pro wrestling. He has written for the likes of the Associated Press, the Canadian Press, and Fighting Spirit Magazine, and has also appeared as a guest on Fight Network Radio.

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**SpiderGuard**  
Member  
Member # 6369

 posted 11-02-2009 08:48 AM 11-02-2009 07:48 AM    

quote:






Originally posted by Rich Tate:

**Irv was on Ringside Rap Friday night, and I told him of some of the feelings about he and other authors regarding the Benoit tragedy, and then gave him the opportunity to speak to his detractors. Feel free to listen [here](#).**

Did you ask him about why he uses so many big words?

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**OSJ from NM  
by way of WA**  
Member  
Member # 6136

 posted 11-02-2009 09:04 AM 11-02-2009 08:04 AM    






"Pieces of the Benoit story underscore the illogic and chicanery of these a la carte eschatalogues".

Okay, while this doesn't bother me a bit (considering the sort of thing I write and my influences ranging from Clark Ashton Smith to Cormac McCarthy); I would have to say as an editor that the frequency of foreign phrases in a non-fiction work targeted to the mass market reeks of pomposity. In a newspaper column, where much may be left to an author's individual style, this sort of stylistic excess is forgivable if not commendable. In a book where the author is trying to reach as broad an audience as possible, it's the literary equivalent of masturbation.

-----  
"What you say sounds reasonable enough," said the man, "but I refuse to be bribed. I am here to whip people, and whip them I shall!")  
-Franz Kafka - The Trial

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**gary cubeta**  
Member  
Member # 24367

 posted 11-02-2009 09:40 AM 11-02-2009 08:40 AM    

sorry i didn't make my views clearer, sooner ...

i'm not really a book reviewer ...

it's not the "big words" but the fact that those words are crammed down your throat to show you how smart Mr. Muchnick is and how dumb the reader is. It makes your head hurt to try and read

the funny thing is that I had heard so many times how great lrv was, I kept trying to read the book thinking it must be great, but that I was distracted or whatever ... I must have picked it up and put it down 30 times before I started reading it out loud to the boss and he was like, what the F is that ???

very busy this week, but will try and get some fresh shows out for you guys ...

[www.57talk.com](http://www.57talk.com)

IP: [Logged](#)

**antichristo**  
Member  
Member # 8575



posted 11-02-2009 09:53 AM11-02-2009 08:53 AM



quote:

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**"Pieces of the Benoit story underscore the illogic and chicanery of these a la carte eschatalogues".**

---

If this is representative of the kind of blathering throughout the book, good luck trying to get me to read that (blank)!

-----  
<http://allstarchampionshipbelts.webs.com/>

IP: [Logged](#)

**gary cubeta**  
Member  
Member # 24367



posted 11-02-2009 10:09 AM11-02-2009 09:09 AM



I am listening to lrv now on that Georgia Wrestling radio show (listed above) and he sounds like a normal human being ... He's not using all the crazy words (eschatalogues).

There are hundreds of those type of words in the book that you have never used and will never use. Sometimes 2 or 3 of them in a giant run on sentence.

If he had just written the book the way he talks on this radio show, it might have been worth a look.

IP: [Logged](#)